

created to improve the delivery of quality legal services to low income and disadvantaged residents of New Hampshire. This three-year effort resulted in the merger of LARC and the NH Bar Association's Pro Bono Program into 603 Legal Aid, collaborating in partnership with NHLA. Ms. Elliott and Deborah have worked closely over the past five years, as Co-Chairs of the overlapping Boards, and during this intense three-year Statewide Planning commitment. Deborah is now a founding member of the 603 Legal Aid Board, of which Ms. Elliott is the founding Co-Chair.

John is currently a legal aid consultant and NH school funding advocate. He worked for 38 years at NHLA New Hampshire Legal Assistance as a staff attorney and managing attorney before serving for 18 years as the program's Executive Director until his retirement in 2014. During his time at NHLA he played a leadership role in advocacy for equal justice in New Hampshire, in the New England region, and nationally. He was Executive Director of NHLA during the beginning of Ms. Elliott's term on the overlapping Boards of NHLA and the Legal Advice and Referral Center (LARC).

We have observed Ms. Elliott's superior intellect and communication skills, and we have seen how others respond to her measured and perceptive analysis of difficult problems. We know how respected she is among her fellow Board members and the staff of NHLA, LARC, and now 603 Legal Aid, who have relied on her good and ethical judgment in the governance of these organizations. And we have been impressed with her work ethic, her focus, her humanity, and her integrity. She possesses in great abundance the intelligence, ethical grounding, and temperament that are vital to being a fair and effective judge.

While we admire her intellect and her character, from our perspective as legal aid leaders we want to emphasize Ms. Elliott's extraordinary fidelity to the concept of equal justice and her commitment to seeing that everyone has the opportunity to access this basic American value, no matter their position in society. The amount of time and energy that Ms. Elliott has devoted to the cause of equal justice is immeasurable. Despite the demands of a busy law practice, Ms. Elliott has unsparingly committed herself to assuring that New Hampshire's legal aid organizations are well-managed and highly collaborative, so that they can deliver quality legal services to the poor. She has used her stellar reputation in the legal community to recruit prominent lawyers to support access to justice efforts, whether in leadership positions, as advocates, or as donors. She has volunteered her own legal services by assisting the Boards in understanding their fiduciary responsibilities and providing advice on other legal matters. She has developed relationships with the executive leadership of NHLA, LARC, and 603 Legal Aid, nurturing mutual trust and mutual commitment to mission. And she has advocated in multiple forums, including at the NH Supreme Court and in the NH Legislature, in support of everyone's right to justice and dignity in our legal system.

We hope that you will consider this nomination favorably. We are confident that, as a judge, Ms. Elliott will be highly competent and deeply compassionate. We know that she will treat everyone who appears before her with the respect they deserve from our judicial system, regardless of their social status or identity. And, as a member of the federal bench, she will have the opportunity to bring our court system closer to the goal of equal access to justice for all.

Sincerely,

DEBORAH KANE REIN, ESQ.,

Lake Worth, FL (formerly Concord, NH).
JOHN E. TOBIN, Jr., Esq.,
Concord, NH.

NEW HAMPSHIRE BAR ASSOCIATION,
October 1, 2021.

Re: The nomination of Samantha Elliott to the District Court for the United States District of New Hampshire

DEAR CHAIRMAN DURBIN AND RANKING MEMBER GRASSLEY: I write in support of the nomination of Samantha Elliott to serve as a judge on the United States District Court for the District of New Hampshire. I urge the committee and full Senate to promptly review and confirm her nomination. I have worked with Attorney Elliott on a number of matters over the years and found her to be an exceedingly excellent trial lawyer and advocate for both plaintiffs and defendants. She is extraordinarily bright, personable, and has a great temperament to be on the bench. In the course of her career, she also served as managing partner of her law firm.

In addition, I worked very closely with Attorney Elliott in her capacity as a Board Member for New Hampshire Legal Assistance and Legal Advice and Referral Center. Together, we recently merged the Bar Association's Pro Bono program with the Legal Advice and Referral Center to create a new statewide entity to serve indigent citizens. The new organization's name is 603 Legal Aid, and it was Attorney Elliott's determination, forthrightness, and ability to bring various stakeholders to the table that ensured that our efforts would be successful. There is no doubt that she will bring the same energy, judgment, and intellectual capacity to the federal bench.

In closing, I respectfully submit my strong support for Samantha Elliott and request the committee and full Senate to promptly review and confirm her nomination to this important position.

Very Truly Yours,

GEORGE R. MOORE ESQ.,
Executive Director,
New Hampshire Bar Association.

BACKUS, MEYER & BRANCH, LLP,
ATTORNEYS AT LAW,
Manchester, NH, October 4, 2021.

Re: Samantha Elliott

DEAR SENATOR DURBIN: I welcome this opportunity to support the nomination of Samantha Elliott. I have practiced law in New Hampshire since 1977, first with the New Hampshire Civil Liberties Union, and since 1981 in private practice. My principal areas of work are plaintiff's employment law and civil rights. Attorney Elliott has been defense counsel in several of my cases. In my experience, she is very knowledgeable of the law, has excellent legal skills, and works hard to achieve a fair outcome. Notwithstanding her defense counsel role, she has demonstrated a capacity to empathize with the plaintiff.

She has a strong commitment to securing equal protection and justice. Equally important, at least from my perspective, is her welcoming demeanor which would make her courtroom a great place to practice law.

Please let me know if I can provide any further information.

Sincerely,

JON MEYER.

BACKUS, MEYER & BRANCH, LLP,
ATTORNEYS AT LAW,
Manchester, NH, October 4, 2021.

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DEAR SENATOR GRASSLEY: I welcome this opportunity to support the nomination of Samantha Elliott. I have practiced law in

New Hampshire since 1977, first with the New Hampshire Civil Liberties Union, and since 1981 in private practice. My principal areas of work are plaintiff's employment law and civil rights. Attorney Elliott has been defense counsel in several of my cases. In my experience, she is very knowledgeable of the law, has excellent legal skills, and works hard to achieve a fair outcome. Notwithstanding her defense counsel role, she has demonstrated a capacity to empathize with the plaintiff.

She has a strong commitment to securing equal protection and justice. Equally important, at least from my perspective, is her welcoming demeanor which would make her courtroom a great place to practice law.

Please let me know if I can provide any further information.

Sincerely,

JON MEYER.

THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
SUPREME COURT,
September 28, 2021.

Re: Nomination of Samantha Elliott to the United States District Court for the District of New Hampshire

DEAR CHAIRMAN DURBIN AND RANKING MEMBER GRASSLEY: It is with much pleasure that I write to you in support of Attorney Samantha Elliott. My knowledge of her qualifications derives from ten years of personal observations including: multiple arguments before our court; active participation in our Daniel Webster Inns of Court; and her remarkable public service.

Attorney Elliott has earned an exalted position among New Hampshire lawyers. She has the wisdom, the patience, and the sense of humor necessary to become one of the finest District Court judges to sit in our lifetime.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you would like any further information.

Very truly yours,

GARY E. HICKS,
Senior Associate Justice.

Mrs. SHAHEEN. I am confident that Samantha's passion for the law and dedication to the impartial administration of justice will make her an excellent judge, and I urge my colleagues to support her nomination.

I yield the floor.

VOTE ON ELLIOTT NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Elliott nomination?

Mrs. SHAHEEN. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Wyoming (Ms. LUMMIS).

The result was announced—yeas 62, nays 37, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 501 Ex.]

YEAS—62

Baldwin	Cantwell	Cortez Masto
Bennet	Cardin	Duckworth
Blumenthal	Carper	Durbin
Blunt	Casey	Feinstein
Booker	Collins	Gillibrand
Brown	Coons	Graham
Burr	Cornyn	Grassley

Hassan	Murkowski	Sinema
Heinrich	Murphy	Smith
Hickenlooper	Murray	Stabenow
Hirono	Ossoff	Tester
Kaine	Padilla	Tillis
Kelly	Peters	Toomey
King	Portman	Van Hollen
Klobuchar	Reed	Warner
Leahy	Romney	Warnock
Lujan	Rosen	Warren
Manchin	Sanders	Whitehouse
Markey	Schatz	Wyden
Menendez	Schumer	Young
Merkley	Shaheen	

NAYS—37

Barrasso	Hagerty	Risch
Blackburn	Hawley	Rounds
Boozman	Hoeben	Rubio
Braun	Hyde-Smith	Sasse
Capito	Inhofe	Scott (FL)
Cassidy	Johnson	Scott (SC)
Cotton	Kennedy	Shelby
Cramer	Lankford	Sullivan
Crapo	Lee	Thune
Cruz	Marshall	Tuberville
Daines	McConnell	Wicker
Ernst	Moran	
Fischer	Paul	

NOT VOTING—1

Lummis

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. WARREN). Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's actions.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. COONS. Madam President, I come to the floor at a time when, I believe, as of today, there are 72 nominees for State Department and USAID positions here in Washington and overseas pending on the Senate floor.

I am going to make a series of unanimous consent requests. I am first going to proceed to one to which there will likely be one objection. Then I will give a few minutes of remarks and then give additional ones.

I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding rule XXII, if applicable, at a time to be determined by the majority leader in consultation with the Republican leader, the Senate proceed to executive session to consider Executive Calendar No. 239, Michele Jeanne Sison, of Maryland, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Career Ambassador, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (International Organization Affairs); that there be 10 minutes for debate, equally divided in the usual form on the nomination; that upon the use or yielding back of time, the Senate proceed to vote without intervening action or debate; and that if the nomination is confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and no further motions be in order on the nomination; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action and the Senate then resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Missouri.

Mr. HAWLEY. I object.

Madam President, it is now December. It has been nearly 4 months since

the disastrous withdrawal from Afghanistan.

Thirteen servicemembers lost their lives in the attack on Abbey Gate along with hundreds of civilians. As a result of the botched evacuation operation, hundreds, if not thousands, of American civilians were left behind to the enemy.

We hear from our friends on the other side of the aisle that my insistence that we actually vote on nominees is unprecedented. I would humbly suggest that the crisis into which this President has led this country is unprecedented. In my lifetime, it is unprecedented.

And who has been held accountable for this disaster? No one. Who has the President fired? Who has offered their resignation? Which of the planners at the Department of State or the Department of Defense or the National Security Council have been relieved of duty? No one.

Until there is accountability, I am going to ask that the Senate do the simple task of its job, which is to actually vote on these nominees. The least we could do is observe regular order and vote on these leadership positions at the Department of State and at the Department of Defense.

My colleagues say that we have got to put national security first. I agree with them about that. But I believe that begins at the top, with the President of the United States and the leadership of the Department of Defense and the Department of State. I, for one, am not going to stand by and look the other way while this administration systematically endangers our national security, imperils the American people, and watches the sacrifice of our soldiers go by without any accountability, without any change in direction.

I am not willing to look the other way and just pretend that Afghanistan didn't happen, which seems to be the posture that many in this body have adopted. I am not willing to do that. I can't do that because I promised the parents of the fallen that I wouldn't do that.

I am going to discharge my responsibility. And as long as it takes, I will continue to draw attention to what happened at Abbey Gate and to demand accountability for the disaster that this administration has pushed upon this country and upon the people of my State.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. COONS. Madam President, at a time when we need senior people to help our country deter adversaries, advance our interests, and secure our values, it is important that all the nominees currently waiting on this floor be confirmed.

They are well qualified. Eight of them would serve under the jurisdiction of my Subcommittee on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee in various multilateral organizations and in economic and energy policy.

I understand and I respect the right of colleagues on both sides of the aisle to seek amendments on votes like the Nord Stream 2 issue. I, for one, would be happy to vote on additional subjects around foreign policy and national security, and I pushed for additional votes during the National Defense Authorization Act floor process.

These national security issues are important, and this Chamber owes to the American people robust debate, but we also need to provide advice and consent on any President's nominees in a purposeful and timely manner.

With that in mind, in a few moments, I will officially ask unanimous consent to confirm the following nominees: Jack A. Markell, of Delaware, to be Representative of the United States of America to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, with the rank of Ambassador; R. Nicholas Burns, of Massachusetts, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the People's Republic of China; Rahm Emanuel, of Illinois, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Japan; Steven C. Bondy, of New Jersey, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Kingdom of Bahrain; Cynthia Ann Telles, of California, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Costa Rica; Bathsheba Nell Crocker, of the District of Columbia, to be Representative of the United States of America to the Office of the United Nations and Other International Organizations in Geneva, with the rank of Ambassador; Christopher P. Lu, of Virginia, to be Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations for U.N. Management and Reform, with the rank of Ambassador; Christopher P. Lu, of Virginia, to be an Alternate Representative of the United States of America to the Sessions of the General Assembly of the United Nations, during his tenure of service as Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations for U.N. Management and Reform; Lisa A. Carty, of Maryland, to be Representative of the United States of America on the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations, with the rank of Ambassador; Lisa A. Carty, of Maryland, to be an Alternate Representative of the United States of America to the Sessions of the General Assembly of the United Nations, during her tenure of service as Representative of the United States of America on the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations; Laura S. H. Holgate, of Virginia, to be Representative of the United States of America to the Vienna Office of the United Nations, with the rank of Ambassador; Laura S. H. Holgate, of Virginia, to be Representative of the United States of America to